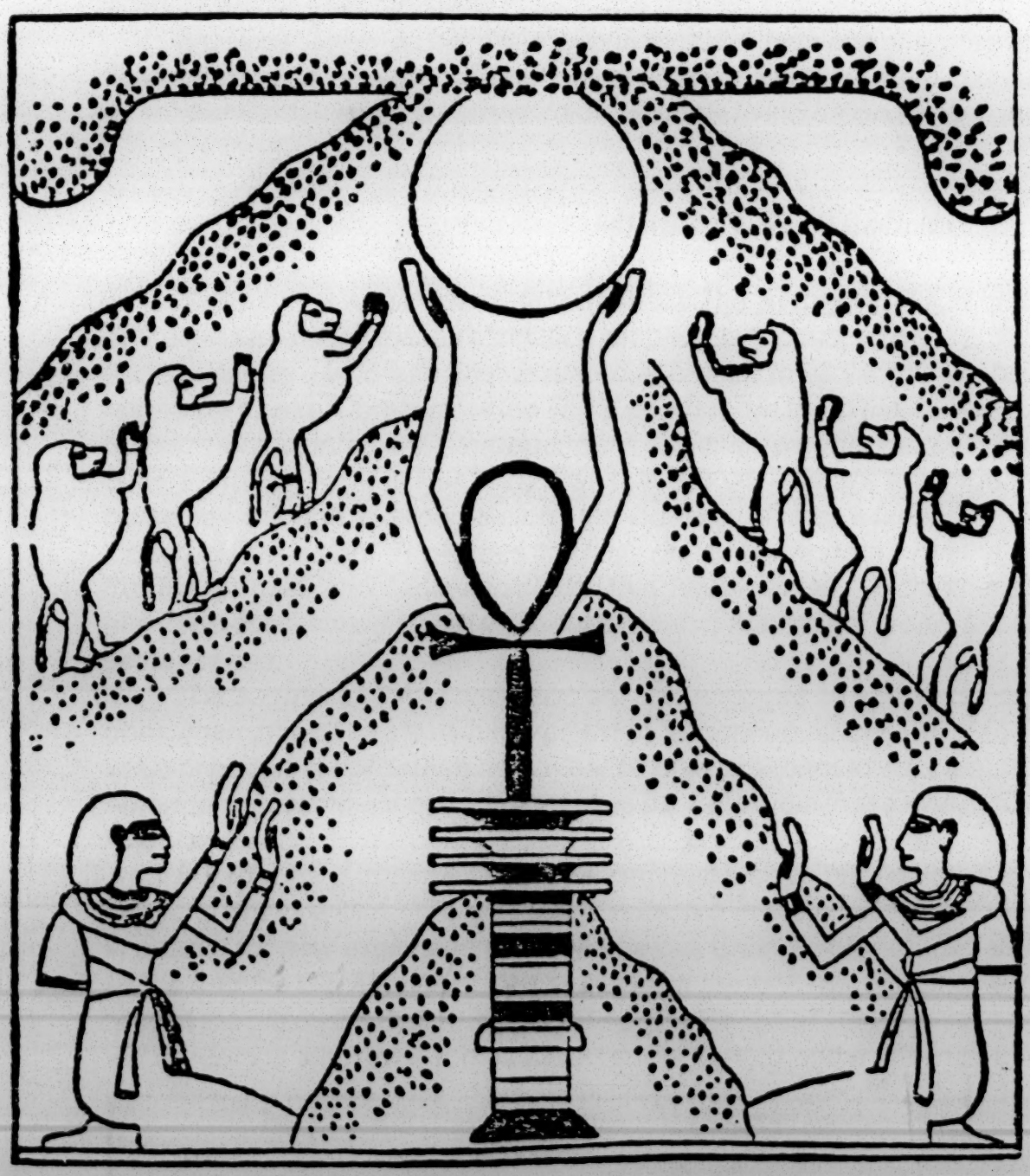
The Serpent's Tail

Summer Solstice, 1990



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The Serpent is an ancient symbol that has been revered by many cultures from China to India to native North America. It respresents the image of the life force in the field of space and time, continually throwing off death and being reborn. As the snake sheds its skin to be born again, so too does life shed its generations one after the other and create new ones. The serpent is in the form of a circle eating its own tail, as does life live by killing and eating of itself, dying and rebirthing, like the moon casts its shadow to become full again. The serpent thus is a respresentation of the primal mystery and paradox of life.

The ancients recognized that the Earth had various energy lines and nodule points very much like our own nervous system. These were perceived as winged serpent or dragon tracks which carried power from one place to the other just like our neurons transmit electrical currents from one synapse to the next. These so-called "ley lines" were traced across the continent from the dolmens of the ancient Celts in Britanny and Ireland (where mysterious "circles" are suddenly appearing today) to the Great Serpent Mound in Ohio to the Dragon vein processions in Asia.

We once again recognize the connections between the macrocosm and the microcosm, between our bodies and the Earthbody so that we can try to keep in harmony with the Earth as Gaia, as Mother Goddess, as a serpent force; a whole living organism with her delicate balance between Life and Death.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Seasons" is a collective that publishes The Serpent's Tail, a quarterly journal that has been conceived to disseminate information on planetary consciousness, the reverance of Natural Laws and advocates a wholistic and balanced approach to all things. We believe that human beings are not meant to take "Dominion of the Earth" as written in the Bible, but are a part of the Great Web of Life in which all creatures are interdependent. Of imminent importance is the preservation of our planet, of Earthmother, for it is Her body that sustains us. We are endangering our planet and therefore ourselves through overpopulation, the burning of fossil fuels and other consequences of the Industrial Revolution. The forces that have driven the modern industrial world will have to reckon with the "life out of balance" (Koyaanisqatsi) they have created. Prometheus's act of stealing fire caused him to be condemned by the Gods for upsetting the natural order. Let us not be condemned for the same reason.

The segment of American society that engages in vast mass-produced media-perpetuated consumerism and waste with no regard to its consequences will reap the effect of its actions. The value of people is not determined by the amount or expense of accumulated inanimate objects as our American consumo-robot culture teaches us. Let us join those who practice the values of community, family and soul.

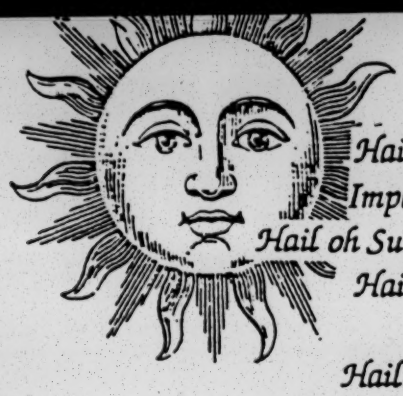
In order for a change in outside manifestation to take place, there first must be a change of consciousness within. The greatest is reflected in the smallest and vice versa. We are on the path in search for new explanations to the age-old Great Mysteries. Science is changing our Creation Myths and the Old Man has been blown from the sky. We therefore are asking our readers to help rewrite the old myths that no longer reflect the "Zeitgeist" that we live in and create the mythology that will determine the New Aeon as we enter the turning of the Millenium.

Editorial Policy

We encourage our readers to make any contributions to the Journal such as letters or articles if you wish to do so. Please see our more detailed advertisement for contributors on the inside back cover. Our next issue will be out between the Fall Equinox and Samhain on October 15, 1990. The deadline for submissions is September 15th, 1990. Please send any copies of acticles, poems, etc. along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will send you a release form allowing us to print your article and make any grammatical corrections. Please send your materials to:

The Serpent's Tail, P.O. Box 04437, Milwaukee,WI 53207

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW



Hail immortal soul of the Sun.
Impart to us the vitality of life.
Hail oh Sun, bestower of our individualities.
Hail Sun, Light of the Father.

Hail immortal soul of the Moon.
Impart to us the ability to nurture and care.
Hail to you Moon, bestower of our personalities.
Hail Moon, Light of the Mother.

Hail immortal soul of Mercury.
Impart to us logic and reason.
Hail Mercury, bestower of intelligence.
Hail Mercury, Light of the Messenger.

Hail immortal soul of Venus.
Impart to us sentiments of love and sharing.
Hail Venus, bestower of harmony and form.
Hail Venus, Light of Beauty.

Hail immortal soul of Mars.
Impart to us the desire to succeed.
Hail Mars, bestower of the dynamic force of creation.
Hail Mars, Light of the Aggressor.

Hail immortal soul of Jupiter.
Impart to us the understanding of universal laws.
Hail Jupiter, bestower of justice and truth.
Hail Jupiter, Light of Wisdom.

Hail immortal soul of Saturn.
Impart to us self-discipline for the freeing of our souls.
Hail Saturn, bestower of all karma.
Hail Saturn, Light of the Teacher.

Hail immortal soul of Uranus.
Impart to us knowledge of the sixth sense.
Hail Uranus, bestower of higher consciousness.
Hail Uranus, Light of Illumination.

Hail immortal soul of Neptune.
Impart to us the knowledge of the mystics.
Hail Neptune, bestower of universal love.
Hail Neptune, Light of Inspiration.

Hail immortal soul of Pluto.
Impart to us renewal of the life force.
Hail Pluto, bestower of the transmutation of energies.
Hail Pluto, Light of Transcendence.

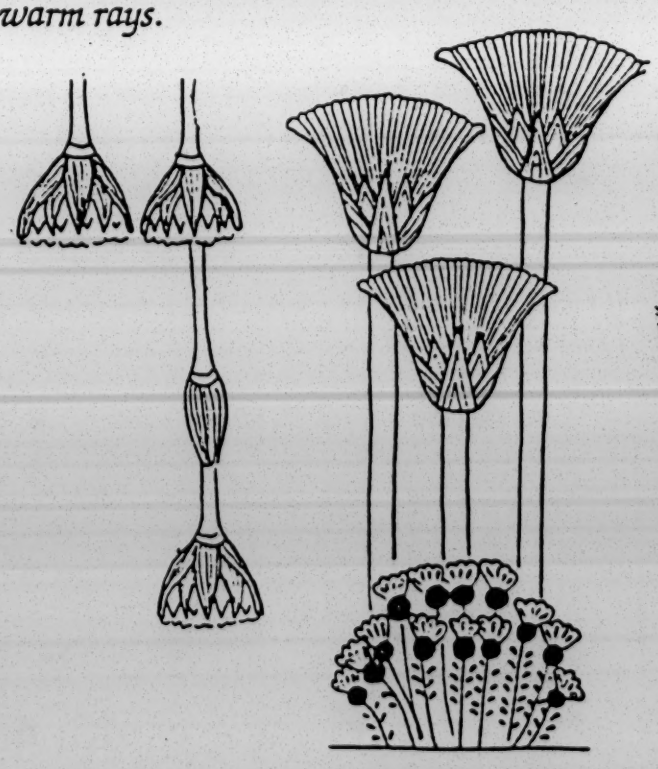
Hail immortal soul of the Divine Creator.
Impart to us the divine knowledge of the stars.
Hail Divine Creator, bestower of all existence.
Hail Divine Creator, Light of Eternity.

Kathleen J. Gad

High Summer...Sol's Light blazes across the land. The days are long and Apollo's Sun Chariot bathes us in heat. The God is in the Height of his Power as the Sun is in the Zenith of the Heavens. But as he approaches the Climax of his Ascent, it also marks the beginning of his decline in the paradox that also holds true for civilizations, peoples' lives and orgasms.

The Hindu saying that 'At the moment of unity begins the separation,' also serves as a model for the Big Bang Creation Theory and cell division and is an apt description of the time of the Summer Solstice. It was at this time that ancient peoples would burn effigies of the Sun God in the form of corn dolls or wicker men to symbolize the Death of the God as the Solstice marked the eventual decline into darkness, awaiting the rebirth of the Sun Child on December 21st.

Our cover depicts the 'djed' pillar, the Ankh symbol of Life, and the rising sun in the mountain of morning from an Egyptian papyrus of the XVIII Dynasty. The djed pillar represents the world tree or axis mundi which is the pivotal point at which the Forms of Time pass from non-being into existance. In the Egyptian mythology, the djed pillar is linked with Osiris, the dismembered god whose coffin is a pillar or tree. Here, the half-buried djed pillar is brought back to life by Isis and emerges as the Sun God Ra who stands at the eastern gate of heaven from whence he goes forth every morning. The Ankh symbol of Life with the Circle of the Spirit over the Cross of Matter lifts up its arms and causes the sun to rise to a higher birth. The Sun is also saluted by the worshiping baboons of the morning as we too salute this special time of year when the Sun is in His height and we can frolic in His warm rays.



Freedom from the System

Consider the world we live in. When the Average Household Caretaker wants to buy some food for their family, they will stop by the Giant Supermarket for some agribusiness-produced, pesticide and preservative-pumped staples; stop by Walgreens for their cryptic Eli Lilly prescription received after a $40+ visit to a for-profit medical shaman; and after this perhaps stop by one of the numerous Burger Palaces that serves up hormone or antibiotic-injected/rain forest-raised beef on styrofoam platters.

What do all these things have in common and what do they tell us about the lives of Americans today? First of all, all of the places that our Household Caretaker went to are all corporately owned, centralized, bureaucratized and one can find their identical clones with plastic beacons all over these homogenized United States. Most Americans probably feel comfortable shopping at them because these establishments are all familiar and if one goes to another such-named store elsewhere, it too, will be identical with no surprises, much like the Holiday Inns that we like to visit. People also probably enjoy the variety of selection as each day-glo plastic-wrapped package will vie for their ever-shortening attention span. Like most American shoppers, our Household Caretaker contributes to the burger-consumption culture probably because it's the American Way and there is only a 30- second wait for the food. If they do, however, succumb to boredom while waiting, the planned "check-out channel" T.V. screens that will soon appear at every grocery line, medical shaman's office and health club will entertain them with tidbits of insignificant information and a heavy dose of commercials. Most people have been doing things this way for so many years because that is the way things are done here and it never occurred to them to question it or to do things differently.

The examples of corporate stores given for our foregoing shopping trip are all direct results of what Alvin Toffler, in his book The Third Wave, calls Second Wave civilization. He breaks the technological development of mankind into three stages: the First Wave, or agricultural revolution which lasted thousands of years, the Second Wave, or Industrial Revolution which has lasted about 300 years, and the Third Wave, or computer/communications and information-processing revolution which is coming into existence now and will replace the decaying and disastrous consequences of the Industrial Revolution.

Let us look briefly at the emergence of the Industrial Revolution and what it has manifested on the earthly plane. The most serious consequences and the one that we see the most evidence of as we drive along the strip malls is the emergence of the Trans-National Corporation. These giants are so large and powerful that they have become a threat to the nation-state in that their owners have no allegiance to any particular country and can pull out any time when American labor becomes too expensive and move to the Third World country of their choice. When smaller companies get swallowed up by huge corporations, the former customary commitment of the company to help build and improve the surrounding community is abolished since corporate headquarters may be thousands of miles away and they have no knowledge nor interest in the needs of the workers or the surrounding neighborhoods. Add to this the emergence in the Reagan Eighties of corporate raiders who consider companies as a product to be bought and sold as a commodity rather than as a group of people who depend on it for a living, which is closer to the way the Japanese perceive companies. As a result, the corporation has largely become a mass behemoth that has lost its soul and sees its only reason for existence is to make profits at the cost of the people, the environment, and eventually the entire planet that supports us.

To get an idea of how huge and powerful these huge corporations are, consider this: The liquid assets of the major companies on any given day add up to more than twice the total of all international monetary institutions in the world on the same date. General Motors annual sales revenue was larger than the GNP of Belgium or Switzerland. Exxon has a tanker fleet 50% larger than that of the Soviet Union. The largest concentration of wealth in this country is in the hands of a very few people. Unfortunately, this can lead to the D.T.'s (Donald Trump Syndrome). In this respect, the centralized corporate-owned concentration of wealth is not unlike the centralized state-owned concentration of wealth in the Soviet Union. We ask ourselves how this came about and why are we continuing to support it?

The beginnings of the Industrial Revolution came, according to Toffler, when there was a gap created between the producer and the consumer. In the agricultural age, people made mostly their own clothing, furniture, grew their own food, etc. With the Second Wave, products were mass-produced in factories and the consumer no longer produced his own goods. Because of the emergence of factories for production, several changes took place as a result of this. First of all, the majority of people became concentrated in large urban centers as they left their family farms to work in the cities' factories. This signalled the

became smaller and it became more economical to have less children.The duties of the extended family were eventually replaced by institutions such as Day Care Centers to care for the children and Nursing Homes to care for the grandparents.

People who used to get up with the cock's crow now had to begin work with the factory bell. This led to the need for the synchronization and standardization of time in order to ensure everyone began work simultaneously. In the past, time was conceived to be organic, following the rhythms of the body, determined by the seasons, the rotation of the Earth and the beat of the heart. With the Industrial Age, time marched to the beat of the machines and was perceived to be linear rather than cyclical as Earthtime is (Hindus perceive time as being a spiral). Everything was seen to be an upward progression towards bigger and better results (profits) and Darwin's theories led some people to imply that the long process of Evolution was the means by which human beings became the pinnacle of all Creation in the end.

The Industrial Age was fueled by the Scientific Revolution in the 17th-18th centuries which helped create the technology to build the machines along with a mind-set that valued rationalization, logical thinking and cause and effect. While these were important patterns of thinking in the Machine Age, the left side of peoples' brains became swelled, and the creative, intuitive, spiritual right-brained thinking atrophied. Perhaps this is why there was a resurgence in Spritualism at the turn of the 19th century and a renewed interest in Eastern Religions and the New Age movement today - - to act as a counterbalance to the mechanistic thought patterns.

Another change that occurred when advertising came in to promote the products of the Industrial Age (and with which we are loudly assaulted daily) was the emphasis on the consumers to think of themselves as individuals with the freedom to choose among whatever products they so desired. In order to bring this about, people needed to be torn away from their ties to the values of others, to social groups such as the extended family, to the church and to the monarchy. Not surprisingly, the fall of most European monarchies came on the heels of the Industrial Revolution. Thus came about the beginnings of the severence of ties between people that we take for a matter of course when we walk down any busy downtown street. Personal relationships, family bonds, neighborly and community ties became dehumanized and alienating as the emphasis focused on the rights of the individual vs. society, the " me-generation/yuppies" in the pursuit of commercial gain and acquisition of goods and status symbols. Everything was treated as a product to be packaged, bought and sold including ideas, art, presidents (as the shallowness of the '88 campaign verified) and souls.

Another consequence of the Industrial Revolution is one mentioned in The Serpent's Tail Mission Statement, namely the idea that was mentioned in Genesis, that "Man shall have Dominion over the Earth." When the Serpent as Life-Force is perceived as being evil in the Garden of Eden and Eve the Woman and Life-Giver is seen as a temptress, this is basically a denial of life and nature (more about this in an upcoming article). In the era of colonization, non-industrial peoples were considered inferior, savage and primitive and their lands exploited for the manufacture of products for their Colonial Masters. When these masters retreated, they left complex operating systems behind that the natives could not administer, deforested and uninhabitable land and eventually ended up with the refugees from their former colonies who drained their own resources.

Among the worst consequences of the Industrial Revolution is the rape of the planet. As Alvin Toffler explains, "With the coming of Second Wave civilization, one found capitalist industrialists gouging resources on a massive scale, pumping voluminous poisons into the air, deforesting whole regions in pursuit of profit, without much thought about side-effects or long-term consequences. The idea that nature was there to be exploited provided a convenient rationalization for shortsightedness and selfishness.....Among these (consequences) was the rampant, perhaps irreparable damage done to the Earth's fragile biosphere. Because of its indust-real bias against nature, because of its expanding population, its brute technology, and its incessant need for expansion, it wreaked more environmental havoc than any preceding age...Never before did any civilization create the means for literally destroying not a city but a planet. Never did whole oceans face toxification, whole species vanish overnight from the Earth as a result of human greed or inadvertence; never did mines scar the Earth's surface so savagely; never did hair-spray aerosols deplete the ozone layer, or thermopollution threaten the planetary climate."

So what can we do about this sad state of affairs? Attack the corporations like Don Quixote fighting windmills? No, the historical movement and money=power behind them is too strong. In fact the answer is already happening now, everywhere, in what Toffler calls the Third Wave. The era that was proclaimed by Crowley as the New Aeon, heralded in the 60's as the Age of Aquarius, called the New Age

Movement today and ushered in by the Harmonic Convergence is upon us now. It will be earmarked as an age of openness and harmony (The Berlin Wall of Shame came tumbling down), of lateral networking and cooperative management forms rather than patri/ hierarchical centralized bureaucracies (The Fall of Communism and hopefully, Unfettered Capitalism) and the blurring of the nation-state as global informational communications become easier and allow alliances and cooperation among countries to exist (The European Economic Coalition in 1992).

We too can contribute to the coming of the New Aeon and the disempowering of the Corporate Megalithic Monoculture. We can begin with the food we eat. Since agribusiness and its reliance on toxic pesticides will continue to displace family farms, we can do the following: grow our own food, buy at local farmer's markets, natural food stores and frequent shops that are privately-owned such as local butcher shops and bakeries that usually don't use preservatives in their higher-quality goods. Many of us are already choosing environmentally safe products and recycling much of the glass, metal, paper and plastics that enter our homes.

Another antiquated profit-oriented system in the U.S. is our health care industry. We and South Africa are the only two nations in the world that do not provide universal nationalized health care to its people. As a result, 50% of personal bankruptcies occured because of medical costs, people are afraid of getting sick, and the overall health of the nation is declining. Our drug company-trained physicians are now adhering to a Hypocrytic Oath as the American Medical Association is actively lobbying against socialized medicine. One of their main motivations for doing this is because under the new system, their prices will be predetermined and they will not be able to charge the astronomical fees they do now. These physicians are no longer serving the needs of the people since those of us who do not have employers that offer health insurance cannot afford to get well. Our current system is vastly inefficient because more of its costs are spent on expensive state-of-the-art equipment, malpractice insurance and most of all, the massive bureaucracy and billing systems needed to administer it than on actual medical care.

What can the little person do? The answer is simple: Physician, heal thyself. Don't give your body and your money right away to the nearest doctor unless you really have to. In many European countries, every household has a Homeopathic Medical book that the family can use to cure minor problems. Homeopathy takes a more wholistic approach to healing in that it also takes into account the emotional and spiritual aspects of the patient and uses cures that include herbs, diet, hydrotherapy, fresh air and sun and most of all, prevention. The medicines are usedto help stimulate your body's own immune system rather than suppressing it with powerful drugs as most modern Upjohn Chemicals do. The study of self-healing ought to be a required course and we should be able to use and obtain whatever kinds of herbs we want in the process of curing ourselves.

Another problem that is contributing to global warming (remember the Summer of '88?) is the burning of fossil fuels to power our transportation systems. Due to the greed of the oil companies, the world relies solely on the internal combustion engine as its energy source and the dismantling of railroads and streetcars in the U.S. has created more waste in the use of oil and gasoline. Alternatives that are already being explored are solar-powered cars in Switzerland, a hydrogen-powered bus in Germany, ocean wave power in Japan, gasohol, burning garbage and tapping geothermal power. We need to find a more diverse energy supply rather than the centralized Exxon Oil Monopoly that has recently shown its unconcern for the environment. We need to move from our resource-wasteful, pollution-producing system of production to a more metabolic, organically-based system that eliminates waste by ensuring that the output of each industry becomes the input for the next.

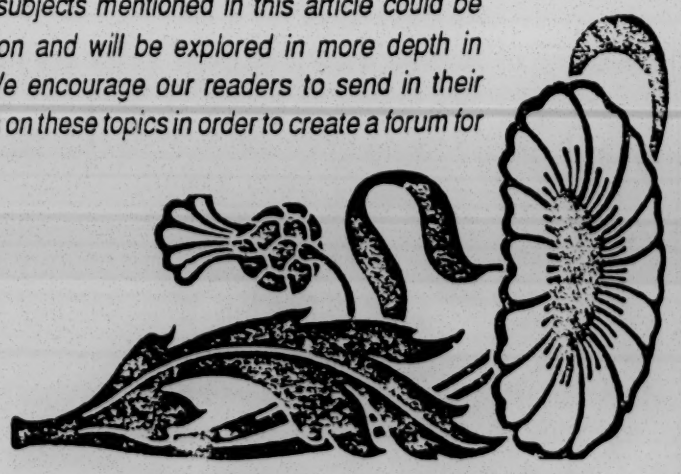
Finally, we need to become more dependent on each other for the goods and services that are currently provided by our Corporate Monoculture. The Serpent's Tail will be setting up a Barter Network Exchange whereby people can trade services and goods with each other (please see our announcement). We hope to see a resurgence of handcrafted items much in the same way that handmade clothing, pottery, leather goods and jewelry were rediscovered in the hippie culture. By empowering ourselves, we can also reconnect the communal ties that have been severed and thereby restore the balance to the delicate planet that sustains us all.

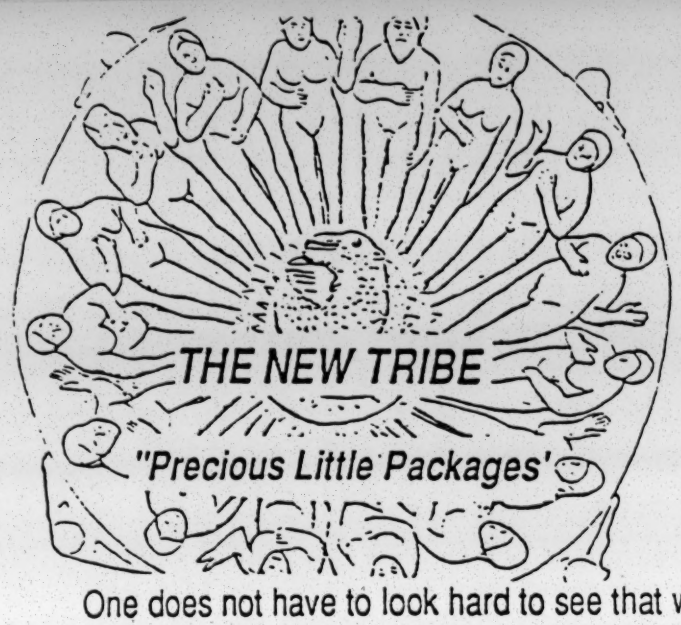
Karin Lorenz Clark

"Civilization Begins at Home."

Henry James

Note: *The subjects mentioned in this article could be greatly expanded upon and will be explored in more depth in upcoming issues. We encourage our readers to send in their thoughts and opinions on these topics in order to create a forum for discussion.*





One does not have to look hard to see that we have a serious child-rearing crisis in our country. As a nation, I do not see us taking useful steps to correct the problems inherent in raising our children. It is the new tribes that must take action to correct this problem.

I particularly admire the practices of the Pacific Island tribes. Their success in child rearing lies in the strength of the extended family, i.e., every member of the tribe is a member of one large family. In this arrangement it is possible for each child to find an adult to whom he/she can relate. As a result, there are few, if any emotionally disturbed or lonely children.

A few generations ago an extended family model existed in this country. Our immigrant communities were like extended families. As time passed, extended family units began to dissolve, and the nuclear family became the new ideal.

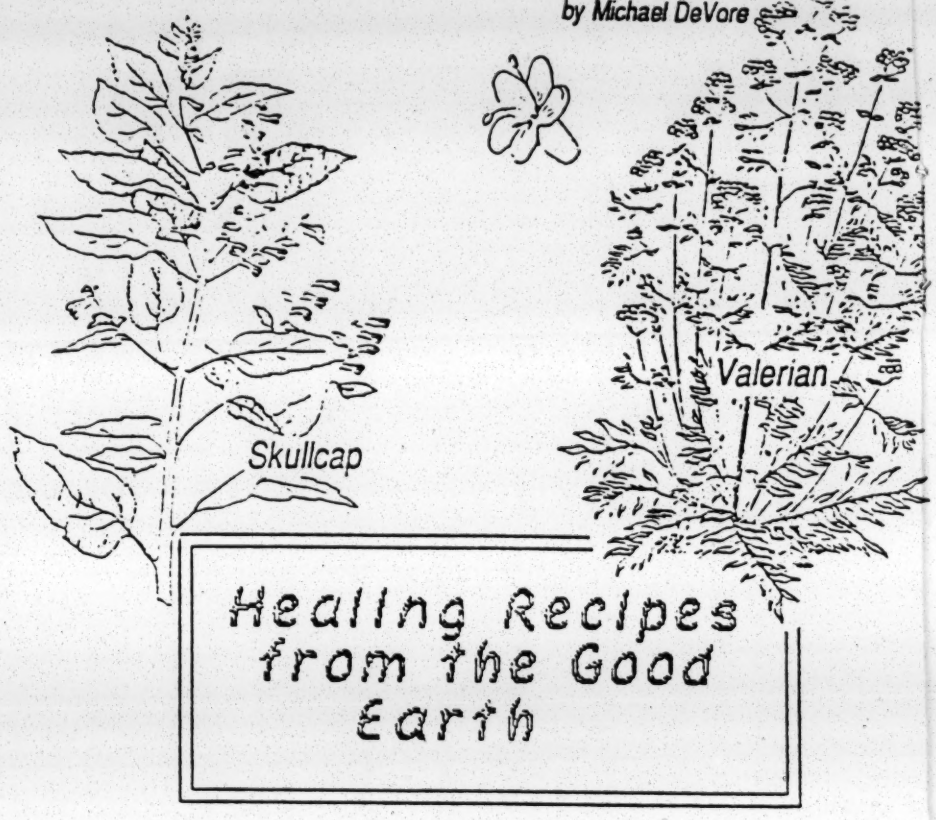
The nuclear family has turned out to be an inadequate model for child-rearing, because it limits the number of role models that a child can have. In a continuing study it was found that one of the most important parts of a child's development was the reinforcement of internal identity. A child who has at least one adult to remind him of his worth regardless of external circumstances has a very good chance of overcoming dysfunctional family circumstances and becoming a functional adult.

When a child comes into the world, there is no guarantee that he/she will pick the right parents, but the extended family makes it more likely that a child will be exposed to an adult who can provide a role model and internal reinforcement. In forming "new tribes" it is important to keep these ideas in mind when considering better ways of bringing up children.

Some have advocated that new tribe people should be encouraged to have more children to counteract all the children that some reactionary, right-wing people are having. This is a problem on two different counts. Such thinking sets up an "us-them" polarity that we wish to avoid. Having more children makes our society less sustainable, particularly when each child in our country may use as much as twenty times the resources that the typical child in the third world would use.

It is better that we consider each child as a resource deserving of the nurture of the entire community. The best way to do this is to encourage the adults of a new tribe community to spend time with children. This allows each child to find the role model suited to their individual temperament, and it reduces the stress on those who wish to be parents.

by Michael DeVore



Healing Recipes from the Good Earth

This is a migraine headache remedy that is an absolute favorite of mine! It was shared with me by a kind man at Archangel Trading Company who was also a migraine sufferer. Now I would like to share it with others. This remedy has three main ingredients that would be wise to keep a good supply of in one's home herbal pharmacopoeia:

Mix...

2 parts feverfew leaves
1 part skullcap
1 part valerian root

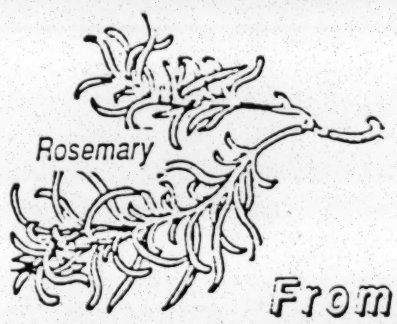
Steep one ounce of herbs to one pint of water and allow to steep 10 minutes. The water should be hot - NOT BOILING! Be sure the pot is covered while the herbs are steeping. The valerian root does indeed have a foul odor (it's not someone's shoes!) so you might want to burn some good insence while it is being prepared. If you have a grinder, it is a good alternative to grind the herbs and prepare it by filling empty gel capsules with it! Start with one capsule every hour and increase the dosage to two capsules every hour if you still have not found relief. Try to relax as much as possible. When purchasing skullcap - be sure it is genuine, and not Germander (Teucrium)*.

Do not over-use and abuse herbal remedies because harmful effects may arise from this. In proper dosages, herbal formulas can and will work for you! Also remember - please do not give your physician the boot! It is still wise to see your doctor for this or any other condition.

Scientific Names

Skullcap: Scutellaria laterifolia; Labiatae
Valerian: Valeriana officinales; Valerianaceae
Feverfew: Chrysanthemum parthenium; Compositae
Germander: Teucrium

Submitted by
Yesod



From the Mother's Cauldron...

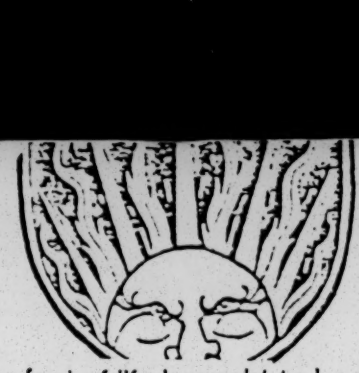
Summer Greetings, everyone!

Gauging our summer season from the turbulent Spring, it seems we may not have those warm summer nights that don't require (additional) clothing to be comfy outdoors. However, Sol will be flaming us with all his daytime glory when we're likely to be enjoying the outdoors. But take heed and be aware to protect your one and only skin/shield. If you will be outdoors for more than a few minutes, it's so important to protect yourself from the burning UV rays. Shield yourself with your clothing or, if you like to get by with as few clothes as possible, there are plenty of sunscreens and sunblocks on the market with appropriate sun protection factor ("SPF") for every skin's need. Enough said about that, except that it is a matter of whole health within our individual control.

Recognizing that we all can overindulge in the things good for us (in moderation), let me offer a cooler to soothe the sun-crisped skin:

Two tablespoons aloe vera gel (health food store variety is the best), mixed with ground comfrey root, a little water and two tablespoons olive or almond oil. Add a tablespoon of liquid vitamin C and a teaspoon vitamin E oil. Mix until thoroughly blended and apply in thin layer to skin.

Aloe and elder flower are highly regarded skin soothers and healers.



Another fact of life brought to bear in the warm seasons is the perennial insect horde. Now I'm not an advocate of wholesale insect eradication, but I'm all for working with the Mother's gifts from the earth to repel or minimize the impact of the nuisance creatures we share the outdoors with. What follows are some herbal bug deterrents which should promote a more peaceful co-existance with the bug kingdom.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND that, especially with repellent oils, an allergic reaction could result. Therefore, it's always a good idea to do a patch test on the inside of your wrist, for example, to check your tolerance. Also, any topically applied repellents should be kept well away from the eyes, mucous surfaces and all sensitive areas of the body.

Herba Deva Insect Repellent

1 ounce citronella oil
1/2 ounce eucalyptus oil
May be diluted with some alcohol - spray on skin and clothes to repel mosquitoes and flies.

Insect Repellent Oil

1 ounce rue oil
1 ounce rosemary oil
1 ounce basil oil
1 ounce wormwood oil

Combine in small bottles. May be diluted as above. Repels a wide range of insects.

A good repellent to disperse around your home:

2 tablespoons rosemary powder
2 tablespoons wormwood leaf powder.

Place in closets, in drawers, around the house to repel pests.

Outdoors, insect repellent smoke candles will keep mosquitoes away. Mix the following together in a paper-based egg carton: crumbled leaves of rosemary and sage, add some dry grass and crumbled or melted white wax -- cut or break off a section and put a match to it.

Also, oils of chamomile, wormwood, rue, lavendar and pennyroyal* can be used.

* *CAUTION Be aware that pregnant women should not use pennyroyal as it can induce contractions and bleeding.*

Rue repels flies. Make a strong infusion of one teaspoon rue to one cup water. Steep 10-15 mintues. Spray in a room or on plants. An infusion of one teaspoon thyme to one cup boiling water can be sprayed around the windows to repel flies.

Pennyroyal, eucalyptus, rosemary and mint all help to disperse fleas and flies, separately or together, by hanging herbs in a room or by placing in pillows.

If those tiny humanovores do penetrate your barrier or catch you without one, here are some suggestions to minimize the discomfort:

Rub powdered sandalwood onto mosquito bites to stop itching.

Also pure, fresh lemon juice relieves the itch of bug bites. Rub it on; reapply as frequently as necessary. Also, a salve of plantain or plantain and comfrey relieve itching.

For bee and wasp stings, try 1/3 teaspoon unseasoned meat tenderizer with one teaspoon water as a paste on a sting. This helps relieve the pain and minimizes allergic reactions.

Baking soda with water soothes bee stings and decreases the swelling.

Basil leaves with water applied to bee/wasp stings help draw out the poisons.

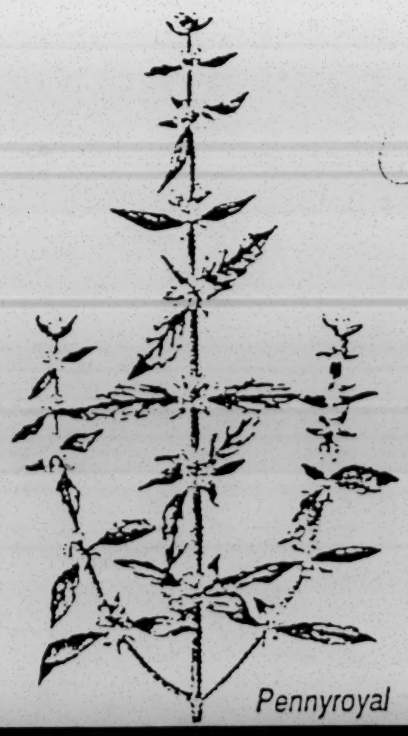
HERB A FLEA, NOT DDT!

Don't forget to extend protections to your pets. A pillow stuffed with pennyroyal, chamomile, eucalyptus, winter savory, rosemary or mint or a combination of these herbs will drive fleas away from your pet or its bedding. Use in your animal's regular sleeping places.

Rub rosemary oil into your pet's brush before grooming. Use this every day during flea season.

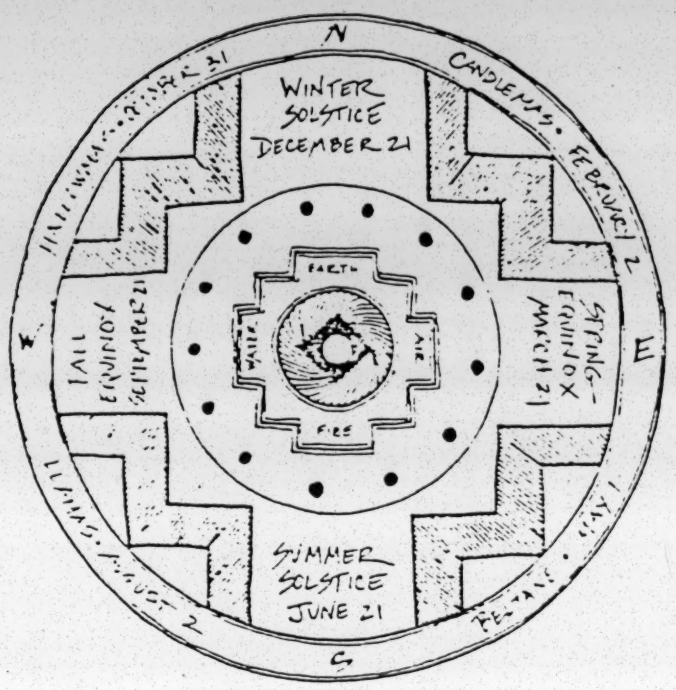
Herbal flea collars free of toxic chemicals and fumes can be made by soaking a collar of leather or cloth in pennyroyal, eucalyptus or rosemary oil.

Wishing you a summer filled with lightness, fun and frolic! And like the Boy Scouts say, "Be Prepared!"



Pennyroyal

Herba Deva



As the Wheel Turns

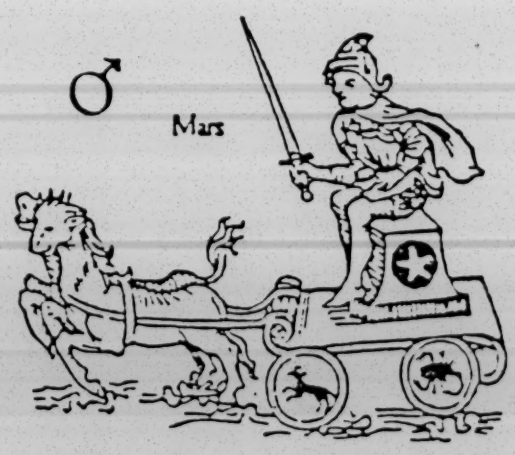
AstroAdvice

and now for a word from J. Merlin...

Aries (March 21-April 20)

"Ariens are still experiencing small amounts of stress. Ego drives change on the 22nd of June. Ariens will experience temperament changes along with an increase in nervousness. Career changes will occur due to layoffs or loss of hours. Raises or promotions will delayed. Beware of losses and accidents.

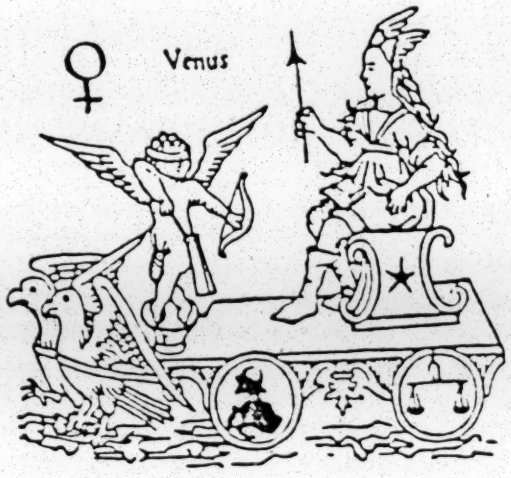
Leo's Sun will inspire solutions to reoccuring problems. You may feel like changing residences. Relationships are highlighted in August. Decisions are hard to make. Radical changes occur around the 6th but don't make any decisions until the 20th of August. Luck will turn for the better starting around the third week of August. Quick thinking may be harmful and may cause possible errors in judgement. Guard against respiratory infections. Head and earaches may occur."



Taurus (April 21 - May 20)

"An opportunity to get out of a bad deal may present itself around June 22nd. It may be better to catch up on housework than to travel. Sudden upsets may occur. Save any concrete or masonry work until September. Disappointment and possible financial setbacks may be coming, so be resourceful.

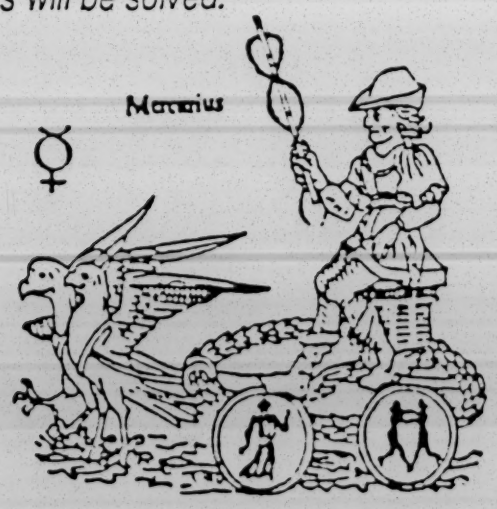
Business decisions should be delayed until the new moon in September. Health problems may occur, so drink lots of water. Deep feelings may surface on the full moon. Pay attention, work toward change."



Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

"Travel and education is on Gemini's mind near the Solstice. Writing becomes a pasttime hobby and social life increases. Geminis may think only of themselves. Romance flourishes in late July but don't overdo it . There might be a windfall around the eclipse. Watch investments on the new moon and stick to your diet. Working conditions change due to ego clashes. Mercury goes retrograde in Virgo.

Geminis will see for themselves what others have been thinking. Respiratory problems and accidents may occur at the beginning of September. Possible financial rewards are coming and health problems will be solved."



Cancer (June 21 - July 20)

"Cancers will continue juggling home and work projects on the Solstice. Try to give each area equal time. Watch your diet. You may change careers in early July. Follow your instincts in this regard. Good luck around the 22nd of July. You may feel depressed and get an urge to redecorate, so watch your spending. Health problems may plague you. There is a possibliity of losing an inheritance due to taxes. Be careful of losses through speculations or schemes. Don't start projects in mid-August, wait until after the 18th of September. Cancers definitely benefit from listening to their inner selves."

Leo (July 21 - August 20)

"You may get an opportunity to reap rewards from investments. Romance may bloom in mid-June. Leave channels of communication open. The issue of children will come up; let your feelings be known and follow your instincts. Look forward to a peaceful September."

Virgo (August 21 - September 20)

"You will have an opportunity to get some of the chores around the house done. Beware of stomach ailments. Delays in raises and promotions, so you may suffer losses. There is a chance of robberies or break-ins. You could suffer disapointments in early August and as a result, be less optimistic . Health problems may arise in September."

Libra (September 21 - October 20)

"Things start balancing out on the new moon. You may find yourself expressing feelings around the 22nd of June. Stressful situations arise on the job and changes in relationships or marriages take place on the solar eclipse on July 21st. Libras may benefit from decisions they will make. Follow your instincts around the 6th of August. Opportunity for romance on the 20th of August. This romance may not be solid and may not last. Enjoy it while you can. Libras will start feeling better around the 20th of September."

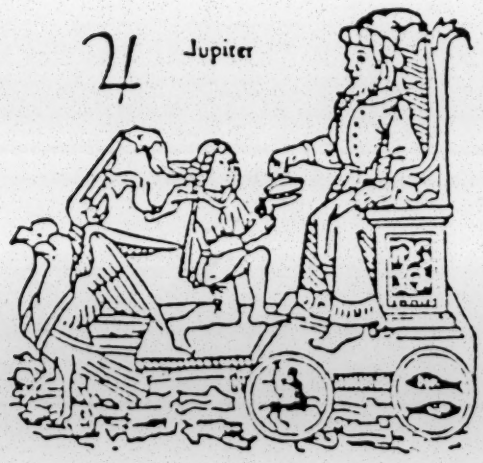
Scorpio (October 21 - November 20)

"There will be lots of household chores in June. You should follow your instincts. Around the new moon, psychic energy may be high. Beware of losses or minor illnesses. Love life becomes disappointing. Watch ego trends until later in August. Health problems may arise in late August , lasting until late September. Enlightenment occurs in September with health conditions improving on September l9th."

Sagittarius (November 21 - December 20)

"You are feeling different thoughts. Legal battles may turn in your favor in June. New goals on the new moon. Vacation plans change. Indecision may come on the 22nd of June. Romance will flourish when the Sun is in Leo. Luck changes on the full moon and a wish may come true.

Outlooks become better at the beginning of August. The full moon brings radical changes in the personality. Legal and transportation problems exist in September."



Capricorn (December 21 - January 20)

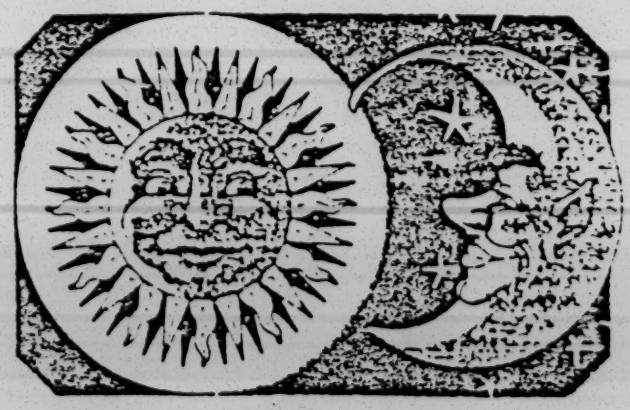
"Capricorns may feel like doing things around the house. Financial setbacks may occur around the 22nd of June. Raises or promotions will be delayed until September. Capricorns run short of luck, so they should do what they know best. Emotional outlook changes in the first week in July. New goals will be set. Make sure they are in your best interest. Keep commitments to a minimum. Don't spend -- save! Health improves in late August. Watch diet and exercise. Employment opportunity doesn't fill the bill."

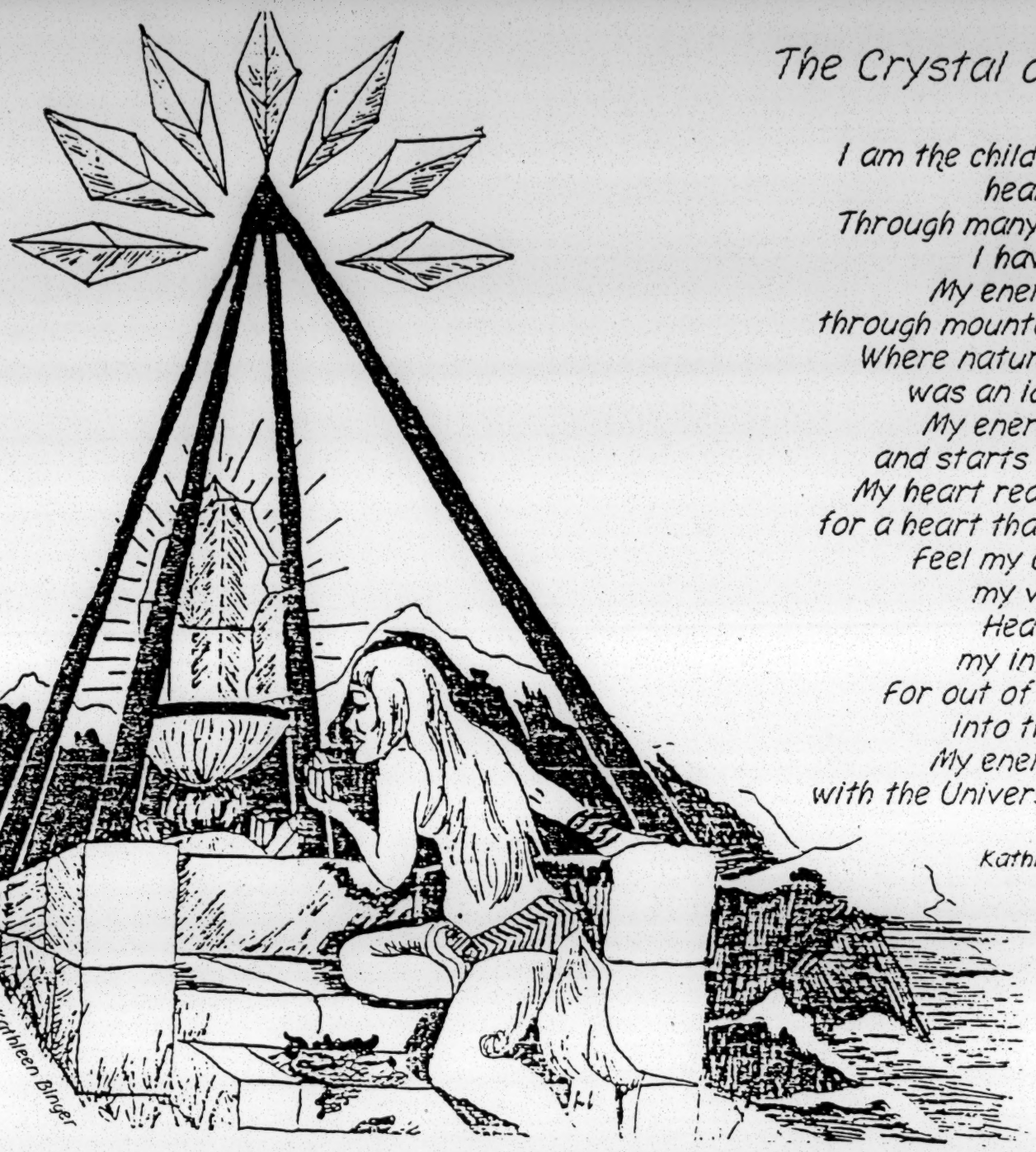
Aquarius (January 21 - February 20)

"A friend will be the bearer of good news. Things are less stressful now. Reevaluate financial situation and stick to short-term projects. Upsets or changes may occur in the home along with changes in friendships. Somebody from the past makes their presence known - you may get a second chance. Mixed emotions. Minor health problems arise."

Pisces (February 21 - March 21)

"Pisces' renewed feeling of optimism starts on the Solstice and lasts until Lammas. Relationships change. Financial matters will surface when Venus enters Gemini. Job opportunities are delayed. Evaluation should take place before moving on. Upsets may occur on the full moon. Changes in occupation are indicated. Minor health problems occur in late July. Social commitments should be minimal at best during most of August. Watch investments around the 20th of August. Radical changes in relationships may occur bringing true feelings to the surface. A decision will be made."





The Crystal of Light

I am the child of stone
hear my cry.
Through many seasons
I have grown.
My energy flows
through mountains high.
Where nature's start
was an idea first.
My energy grows
and starts to flow -
My heart reaches out
for a heart that is true.
Feel my coolness,
my vibration.
Hear my call
my invocation.
For out of darkness
into the light -
My energy flows
with the Universal Light.

Kathleen Binger

Phoenix

Rise
Rise
up from
the Ashes
like the PHOENIX

Rise
Rise
up from
the darkness

Break the chains
that bind
your mind
Embrace Life
ye are gods
sons and daughters
of the
New AEON

Eternity
is
Now

Michael Dean Pollock

The Muse's Corner

They Come Not To The Sea

The vision.
Mussles are sodered
to the rock, popping
barnacle covered shells
blue-black ashed with
worn lines from
salt water.

I am careful, they can
slice my feet clean as papercuts.

Black shadow fish
flash from under rock
to under rock
like the imaginary
bear under my bed.

In a shimmering vision
among the gray rocks
she appears.
Her eyes are like anemonies
pulling faceted crystal tears.
Minute purple crabs
form her necklace.

She raises her pale arm skyward
and I am drawn to her
as if by undertow
in the white sand.
Her voice is like the music
of the babbling brook
as she speaks a
common language.

--Come, take these-- she sings

In her palm are
green-white disks .
which she willfully
drops into my hands.
-Gold?- I whisper.
She lets out a hiss
like the spray of a wave
broken on the rocks.
Her voice is now like
a gathering sea storm.

--These-- she says
with just sea arrogance
--are that which the sea
takes from the land.
Out of their element their light
diminishes as the waning
sun must before it can set.
Until now their power was
useless, lost in the sea.
But now, slowly,
they regain their power
and are taking life from the sea.

To you I give a task.
Bring me the missionaries
for they come not to the sea,
but the time speaks
of dark lords who gain power.
Bring me not children
but adults strong in their faith
for only they can survive.
Spiritual gifts always
accompany faith, and so
I give a gift to those faithful.--

Her voice now calm
returns to the music of the brook.
Her body appears crystaline
as a cirrus cloud.
The sun catches her crystals
and spreads a rainbow at her feet.

--From the isle where live
the Quillpiun, a boy is sent
to go among the destructive people.
He must find a way to talk
to their destructive god who gives
them dominion over all the earth.
A great shift has been felt,
the triangle breaks.
To this boy three gifts
have been given.
In receiving these gifts
he in turn becomes a gift
to those faithful,
the gift of which I
have spoken.

Go now and find those
willing to come to the sea.--

She fades like fog
washed away by water ripples.
I am left on the sand
still clenching the disks.
And I wonder where to find
the legions of the faithful.
Faithful to what?
A vision on the beach or

The boy.

Karen Kelling

Announcing a New Barter Exchange Network

The Serpent's Tail would like to announce a new Barter Exchange Network section. It is an alternative to an "advertising" page in that we would like to receive announcements from members of the community offering goods and services that they would like to trade or barter with other network members. The trade or barter agreement would be left to the discretion of the parties involved as to whether they would want to exchange money or goods and services.

We prefer hand-crafted or home busines items and products that are ecologically safe and conscious. Our attempt here is to be a proponent of alternatives to the mainstream and to enable more dependence on each other rather than on the dictates of an enormous corporate monoeconoculture. We reserve our right as the editorial board to accept or reject material within this broad framework. If you feel that you have goods & services that you can offer to the exchange network, please contact us.

Announcements are free in exchange for a membership ($10) which also entitles you to four seasonal issues. We prefer announcements that are copy-ready and written in standard business-card size. It is also possible for us to do the typesetting for you.

Power to the People!

To All Milwaukee Area Pagans, Witches, etc.:

Many folks have expressed interest in forming a Milwaukee Area Pagan Co-operative. The purpose of this would be to network with each other, exchange information on upcoming events, come together for celebrations, meet new people and learn new things. Successful organizations of this nature have been formed in Madison, Chicago, Tucson and many other cities. Why not here? There can be strength through Unity. For more information call (414)271-9649, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m. or write Orenda O'Connor, P.O. Box 93164, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

THE SERPENT'S TAIL

A CALL TO ALL

Shamans, Magicians, Amazons, Networkers,Rainbow Warriors, Fairies, Cooperators, Satyrs, Nymphs, Tribe-speople, Forestfolk, Wizards, Witches, Gypsies, Econauts, Pythonesses, Recyclers, and Treefriends.....

PLEASE SUBMIT

articles, poems, essays, invocations, recipes, chants, letters to the editor, etc.

ON THESE TOPICS

Astrology, Herbalism, Magick, Wicca, Shamanism, Comparative Mythologies, Buddhism, Goddess Worship, Egyptian Mysteries, Gnostic Christianity, Environmental Issues, Ritual Construction, Invocations, Tarot, I Ching, Runes, and other New Age-related topics to:

The Serpent's Tail, P.O. Box 04437, Miilwaukee, WI 53207

Make Your Contribution in Creating
the New Myths for the
New Aeon!

A CALL TO ALL

Seasons

Collective Membership

Would you like us to keep (re)creating The Serpent's Tail for the seasonal transitions? Here at the core (editorial board) we are finding the $$ side becoming too much for just us to bear. We are weaving a sustaining web. We ask your support in strengthening the connections...

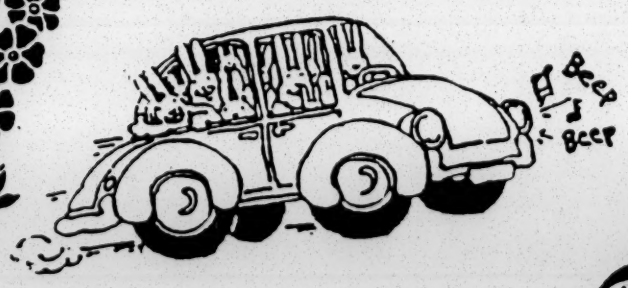
Receive 4 seasonal journals for a minimum donation of $10.00.

Back issues still available!
Samhain 1989 ,Yule 1989, and Spring Equinox 1990.... $2.00 each

We especially need access to any kind of printing or photocopy equipment.

Any other donation you're moved to send will be appreciated and acknowledged.

We live in Milwaukee and our reach is universal.



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Link me on with the _____ season!
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